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mention his name? As to the intimation of a mercenary motive, neither I, nor my advisory board, nor the constituency we represent are one penny richer for the sale of any text-book on this subject bearing our indorsement. Resort to such charges is evidence of conscious poverty of argument against this movement. As to the promoters of temperance education in the public schools being a 'self-constituted oligarchy,' as Professor Sedgwick says, we reply:

The Superintendent and Advisory Board of the Department of Scientific Temperance Instruction in Schools and College represent the World's and National Woman's Christian Temperance Union in their oversight of the study of temperance physiology in schools. Thus this department has for its constituency the largest organization of women in the world, who are banded together to secure, as one of their objects, the protection of this special education for their children. Hence, to call the work of this department that of a 'self-constituted oligarchy,' as Professor Sedgwick does, shows utter misapprehension of facts. 'A self-constituted oligarchy,' *i. e.*, 'power exercised by a few' who are self-appointed, could not write its ideas embodied in law on the federal statute books and those of all the states of this great republic. The laws requiring this study and whatever is necessary to its being taught represent the 75,000,000 American people who have decided that their children shall have this special education. It is simply futile to try to belittle this movement by efforts to make it appear as anything less than a national one which is rapidly becoming world-wide.

MARY H. HUNT.

*World and National Superintendent of the Department of Scientific Temperance Instruction of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.*

#### TEMPERANCE PHYSIOLOGY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Mrs. Hunt apparently sees no impropriety in a law which requires temperance physiology, so called, to be taught to 'all pupils' in the public schools. If it does not seem to Mrs. Hunt, as it does

to me, obviously undesirable and improper to require such teaching of children in the primary and kindergarten grades, then I fear that nothing that I can do is likely to bring us into agreement.

Mrs. Hunt has much to say about 'organized motherhood,' by which she seems to mean the so-called 'consecrated women' in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and her letter may give the impression that it is not she but they, who have been chiefly instrumental in the text-book movement, etc., especially as she affirms, 'I make no apology for its being my good fortune to have been thus officially appointed.'

Although it is difficult to discover from the context to what exactly she was thus 'appointed,' a reference to Mrs. Hunt's quasi-historical documents cited in my Chicago address, and entitled 'An Epoch of the Nineteenth Century,' and 'A Brief History of the First Decade,' throws light upon this somewhat obscure statement; for upon page 6 of each of these documents Mrs. Hunt states that the 'Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in 1874,' and "In the autumn of 1879 I carried to the annual national convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in session in Indianapolis, Indiana, what the Quakers would call 'my concern,' for thorough text-book study of scientific temperance in public schools as a preventive against intemperance. \* \* \* A standing committee, of which I was made chairman, was chosen. \* \* \*

"The idea of scientific temperance instruction as a part of the regular course of study in public schools was thus adopted by an organization [the Woman's Christian Temperance Union]. \* \* \* Resolutions were passed and action taken which resulted in 1880 in the creation by that organization of a department to work for scientific temperance instruction in public schools and colleges, of which department I was made superintendent. \* \* \*

"While this new affiliation brought neither help in methods nor the financial aid greatly needed for the execution of plans, it did furnish what was still more necessary, an earnest, enthusiastic clientage of active loyal Chris-

tian women, in every part of the country, ready gladly and intelligently to carry out the plans transmitted to them. \* \* \* Napoleon Bonaparte would never have been the Napoleon of history if he had had no army."

Mrs. Hunt's allusion to Napoleon is unfortunate, for how Bonaparte was 'officially appointed' to rule over his army we all know.

I must admit that my term 'self-constituted and official oligarchy' was apparently not strictly accurate; and I confess myself at a loss for the right term; 'monarchy' or 'dictatorship' might perhaps fit the case better, but would probably not meet with Mrs. Hunt's approval; and I find her term 'organized motherhood' also open to objection.

As to the statement, 'Professor Sedgwick falls into line with them [that is the liquor dealers] when he attempts to support his objection with a quotation from a letter written, he says, by a representative of a publishing house,' I desire simply to recall what I actually did say, which was that the letter quoted by me constituted an 'opinion,' merely, the existence of which seemed to me noteworthy and unfortunate.

Finally, I may say that I shall be happy to send a copy of my Chicago address to any one who is unable to refer to it in SCIENCE of January 10.

W. T. SEDGWICK.

#### SHORTER ARTICLES.

##### PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON A SUBDERMAL MITE OCCURRING AMONG THE BIRDS IN THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL PARK.

DURING the month of February, 1901, four white ibises (*Guara alba*) died in the bird-house of the New York Zoological Park, and neither gross nor microscopical examination showed pathological evidence sufficient to account for the death of the birds, but on beginning to skin a fifth ibis, two peculiar patches were observed on the under surface of the skin on each side of the keel of the sternum. At first glance these looked as a heron's skin does, beneath powder-down patches, where the ends of the tiny quills are plainly visible, all pointing in one direction. A closer examination showed these patches to consist of many hundreds of small mites, close together, all

lying lengthwise. A yellowish exudation and a small amount of watery matter was observed in the vicinity of these patches.

During the early months of 1901, a number of other birds died from the ravages of this peculiar pest. Two valuable great-crowned pigeons (*Goura coronata*) showed, besides large numbers of these mites, numerous oval parasites in the red blood-cells. A little blue heron (*Ardea cœrulea*) and several Nicobar pigeons (*Calœnas nicobarica*) had congested lungs and large numbers of the mites.

The present winter, only two birds have died from this cause, although the mites have been detected in two living birds. In a white ibis which succumbed, the parasites were smaller and less numerous than in the birds of the same species which died last winter. The second bird which died was a roseate spoonbill (*Ajaja ajaja*), in which the mites were large and numerous.

The mites vary greatly in size and appearance, but the largest individuals are 1.50 mm. in length and about .50 mm. in breadth. Eight five-jointed legs are present, four near each end of the longish-oval body. The most noticeable characteristics are the brownish, probably chitinous, leg-supporting structures which vary in complexity with the size of the individual. In a small specimen these are comparatively simple, while in mites of larger size they ramify into complex structures. Six of the legs bear numerous short hairs, while two at one end of the body end in a single long bristle.

The temperature of the bird-house has been kept quite low during the present winter, with distinctly beneficial results to the birds, and this may also account for the absence or small size of the mites.

Drawings have been made of specimens and, although distinct, the organism most resembles the worm-shaped pigeon mite (*Hypo-dectes columbarum*) superficially described by Dr. Anton Zürn in 'Die Krankheiten des Hausgeflügels.'

He evidently knows but little about the mite, but quotes from Megnin and others and gives one or two rather suggestive hints which it is expected will soon be worked out by ex-